

Delaware CEDS

*a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for the State of Delaware*



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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SUSSEX REGION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

January 25, 2006

4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Delaware Technical and Community College - Owens Campus, Georgetown

Committee Members Present: Jeffery Fried (Co-chair), Jerry Esposito (Co-chair), Sam Cooper, Stephen Masten, Judi Scipe, John Culp, Gene Dvornick

CEDS Support Staff: Julia O'Hanlon, Bill McGowan, Erik Hopkins

DEDO Staff Present: Joy Oliver

Number of Public Participants Present: 4

Julia O'Hanlon started the meeting by reviewing previous committee meeting accomplishments and introducing the evening's agenda. After brief introductions of public attendees and committee members, Bill McGowan facilitated the completion of the committee's CEDS Goals & Objectives Chart. Public attendees and committee members discussed quality-of-life measures and historic- and wildlife-preservation strategies.

Upon discussion of the Goals & Objectives Chart, Ms. O'Hanlon initiated discussion on the CEDS project-proposal process. She referenced the number of municipal-sponsored projects submitted by Sussex County local governments and summarized how the projects were scored [based on a weighted formula devised by the Institute for Public Administration (IPA)]. The committee was then asked to review and rank the projects.

The committee expressed several concerns about comparing and ranking the projects and reached a consensus that further knowledge of EDA-funding criteria and availability, as well as the overall project-proposal process, was necessary before doing so. The committee also discussed the feasibility of granting another two-week extension for project-proposal submissions in order to elicit a greater response from municipalities throughout the county. It was further suggested that project proposals already submitted should be returned and allowed to be resubmitted after sponsoring municipalities have had the opportunity to review and consider the committee's goals, objectives, and strategies. The meeting adjourned with the committee's decision to defer ranking projects until more information about the process could be provided. IPA staff informed committee members that it would review the project-proposal process, provide further information as necessary, and advise the committee as to an appropriate path forward.